

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 03712 011357Z

14

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 ACDA-19 OMB-01 SAJ-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 MC-02

DRC-01 /154 W

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R 301130Z NOV 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4485

INFO AMSMBASSY AMMAN 2794

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 3712

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (LINE 6 PARA 1 AMITY VICE UNITY)

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET SENSITIVITY TO US/EGYPTIAN RELATIONSHIP

1. ONE SPINOFF OF SECRETARY'S VISIT AND SUBSEQUENT RAISING OF LEVEL OF US/EGYPTIAN RELATIONSHIP, PUBLICATION IN CAIRO PRESS OF AMBASSADOR'S CALLS ON FOREIGN MINISTER, UND HIGH VISIBILITY GIVEN TO VISITS BY CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATIONS IN PAST WEEK HAS BEEN NOTICEABLE INCREASE IN SOVIEIT SENSITIVITY ABOUT APPARENT NEW US/EGYPTIAN AMITY. SOVIET EMBASSY AND TASS REPRESENTATIVES HAVE DISPLAYED CONSIDERABLE CURIOSITY IN DIPLOMATIC CIRCUIT ABOUT REASONS FOR VISITS BY CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATIONS, PARTICULARLY THAT BY HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE. ACCORDING TO SOME SOURCES, SOVIETS HAVE TRIED TO MAKE JOKES ABOUT "US ARMS SUPPLY TO EGYPT," WHICH HAVE GENERALLY FALLEN FLAT AS A RESULT OF THEIR HUMORLESS, EVEN QUERULOUS, QUALITY. SOVIETS IN CAIRO HAVE ALSO ASKED US

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 03712 011357Z

QUESTIONS ABOUT EVIDENT GREATER DEGREE OF LOVE IN EGYPTIAN

LOVE/HATE RELATIONSHIP WITH US. ONE FOREIGN MINISTRY
OFFICIAL HAS ADDED THAT SOVIETS HAVE BEEN DEMANDING FURTHER
INFORMATION ON US/EGYPTIAN RELATIONS FROM GOE AS WELL.

2. COMMENT: MATTER IS OF IMPORTANCE BECAUSE IT HAS SENSITIZED
EGYPTIANS TO VISIBILITY OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH USG. GOE
CONTINUES TO SEE SOVIETS AS BEING OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE AS
ONLY MAJOR SUPPLIER OF WEAPONRY AND, IN CASE OF RESUMPTION OF
MAJOR HOSTILITIES, POSSIBLE GUARANTOR FOR INTEGRITY OF COUNTRY
AND REGIME, AND THEY HAVE GONE OUT OF THEIR WAY ON SEVERAL
OCCASIONS TO DEMONSTRATE OVERT GRATITUDE AND AFFECTION FOR
USSR. MOST RECENT EXAMPLE IS TODAY'S ARTICLE BY HEYKAL, WHO
UNDERScores THAT EGYPT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE USSR IS "VITAL
AND IRREPLACEABLE FOR ARAB PEACE," AND THAT US SHOULD NOT BE
PERMITTED TO DIMINISH ROLE OF SOVIET UNION IN MIDDLE EAST
SINCE THIS WOULD CREATE RETURN OF TURMOIL AND UNREST TO THE
AREA.
EILTS

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30 JUN 2005

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